

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An autothermal reforming apparatus comprising:
 - (a) a combustion chamber;
 - (b) at least two catalytic reactors connected in parallel to the combustion chamber;
 - (c) a duct for leading the combustion product from the combustion chamber in parallel to the catalytic reactors, wherein the combustion product directly contacts and heats catalyst beds within the catalytic reactors; and
 - (d) withdrawal ducts for withdrawing the product of the catalytic reactors.
2. (Original) An autothermal reforming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said combustion chamber is provided in the bottom thereof with a burner having inlets for feed and oxidant.
3. (Original) An autothermal reforming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said combustion chamber is provided in the top thereof for outlet means communicating with said duct.
4. (Currently Amended) An autothermal reforming process comprising combusting in a combustion chamber, a hydrocarbon and steam feed with an oxidant to produce a combustion product, withdrawing the combustion product, introducing it to at least two reactors connected in a parallel ~~within~~ to the combustion chamber, wherein the combustion product directly contacts and heats catalyst beds within the reactors, catalytically reforming ~~it~~ the combustion products in the reactors to produce a reformat~~e~~, and withdrawing the reformat~~e~~.